

everything you can to bring to these meetings physicians who are not now members of our organization.

We all know that the American Medical Association is a body truly representative of the very best in the medical profession of the United States and that its efforts are and have been directed toward improving and helping American physicians. A recent undertaking of the Association was the organization of a Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry with the object of protecting the physician and the patient from some of the all too many frauds foisted upon us by lying and utterly unscrupulous "manufacturers." The committee on chemistry of this council recently reported on certain so-called remedies and this report we had the pleasure of reprinting in the July JOURNAL at page 223. Among other things, "phenalgine," which the "manufacturers" claim to be a definite chemical substance, was shown by analysis to be merely a mixture of acetanilid, sodium bicarbonate and ammonium carbonate. The five gentlemen whose signatures are attached to this report are all of them chemists of national, if not indeed of international, reputation, and one of them is the chemist in charge of the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture of the United States, Dr. H. W. Wiley. The Association is possessed of sufficient of this world's goods to satisfy a judgment and we would expect, if any concern had been injured by the Association's Council, to see such "manufacturer" promptly file a damage suit. But a damage suit brings to light *facts*—and this is sometimes dangerous—so the "manufacturers" of "phenalgine," this acetanilid mixture, have not brought a suit. They have bought two pages of the *Medical Record*, a journal which has, heretofore, been supposed to be published in the interests of the medical profession, and in these two pages they print what is nothing more nor less than a direct and unqualified insult to every reputable physician and especially to every member of the American Medical Association. It is almost inconceivable that the *Medical Record* could or would permit itself to allow such a gross insult as it issued to the world in its number of September 2d. Are reputable medical men going to permit this sort of thing? Are they going to continue to support a journal which permits "manufacturers" of this class to use its pages for the perpetration of insults directed at the medical profession and its representative body, the A. M. A.? Are we so grovelingly tolerant that we will continue to contribute our good money—in the shape of subscriptions—to the support of a publisher that will permit his advertisers to so outrageously insult us? Think this over carefully and then, if you are a subscriber to the *Medical Record*, consider whether you desire to aid that journal in allowing advertisers to insult you, by continuing your subscription.

The *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* for September presents some very interesting figures on the relative number of cases and deaths from yellow fever during the present and previous epidemics. From these it appears quite clear that the present epidemic is somewhat under control and the prospect of bettering the season's record before the advent of cold weather appears to be good. The same journal regularly publishes a mortuary report for the city of New Orleans, and that for the current month contains matter of interest. The whole country has been profoundly roused by the yellow fever epidemic and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent in quarantine and preventive measures. The mortuary report for July shows that 42 whites had died during the month from the prevailing epidemic; but it also shows that 84 persons died from tuberculosis, 53 from diarrhea, dysentery and enteritis, and 46 from heart disease, during the same period. In other words, tuberculosis, claiming more than twice as many victims during the month of July as did yellow fever, excites no comment. Of course this was only the very beginning of the epidemic, and the month of August will show a very much larger number of deaths from yellow fever, yet the figures in the table are striking. Doubtless one would be quite safe in assuming that a much larger number of persons have died, in the city of New Orleans, during the past 50 years, from tuberculosis than from this terrifying epidemic. Tuberculosis is always with us and its fatal results are achieved insidiously; yellow fever is only an occasional visitor and brings death suddenly and, to a degree, mysteriously. Does it not seem time for each commonwealth to wake up and do a little more fighting against tuberculosis?

It is difficult to conceive of a more inconvenient modern "convenience" than the telephone, as the service is at present administered in San Francisco and some other parts of the state. The old and monopolistic company seems to have engaged the services of some mentally astigmatic genius for the purpose of devising means and methods for the aggravation of the telephone subscriber; and of all men, probably the physician suffers most from this cause. Oftentimes not only his own practice and his own business interests suffer, but his patients are put to much annoyance and not a little danger by the carelessness of the telephone operators. Nearly every man who comes to the office of the Society "kicks" about the telephone service. It does not do any particular good to "kick" to the secretary, for he has the same cross to bear. But why not try a sort of joint and combined "kick?" Agree upon a time and then all file complaints with the company; perhaps that would do some good. What do you think of the idea?